

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 EB-07 ACDA-07 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /098 W

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R 020915Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5097
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
COMSIXTHFLT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, AG, MT
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN-MALTESE COMMUNIQUE

RF: (A) VALLETTA 1004 (NOTAL), (B) ALGIERS 2123 (NOTAL)

1. JOINT ALGERIAN-MALTESE COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING AUGUST 30-31
VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF TO ALGIERS CONTAINS FOLLOWING
POINTS OF INTEREST:

A. ALGERIA CONGRATULATES MALTA ON REINFORCEMENT OF
MALTESE INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY REPRESENTED BY PLAN TO
CLOSE FOREIGN BASES IN 1979.

B. TWO SIDES AGREED THAT MALTA'S NEUTRALITY, BASED ON NON-
ALIGNMENT, SHOULD BE REINFORCED BY ECONOMIC COOPERATION
BETWEEN MALTA AND OTHER MEDITERRANEAN STATES.

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C. ALGERIAN DELEGATION WILL GO TO MALTA IN NEAR

FUTURE TO STUDY DIFFERENT PROJECTS DISCUSSED DURING MEETING
AND TO DISCUSS OTHER PATHS OF COOPERATION.

D. ALGERIAN-MALTESE COOPERATION ON LAW OF SEA
QUESTIONS, AND PARTICULARLY ON SEABEDS, TO CONTINUE.

E. REAFFIRMED ATTACHMENT TO PRINCIPLES OF SELF-
DETERMINATION FOR PEOPLES NO MATTER WHAT THEIR NUMBER OR SIZE
OF THEIR TERRITORY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL (ABERKANE) WHO DRAFTED
COMMUNIQUE COMMENTED TO ME (A) THAT HEAVILY STRESSED CONCEPT OF
MALTESE NEUTRALITY NOT NEW; (B) ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION, HE
NOTED THAT MALTESE INTERESTED IN FINDING 60-70 MILLION
DOLLARS TO UPGRADE SHIP BUILDING FACILITIES;
(C) LANGUAGE ON SELF-DETERMINATION MEANT SAHARA; AND
(D) MALTESE HAD REQUESTED RESIDENT ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR FOR
VALLETTA. ALGERIANS HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT DOUBTED
AMBASSADOR WOULD BE DISPATCHED QUICKLY.

3. COMMENT: WHATEVER SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF VISIT,
ALGERIANS PLAINLY INTERESTED IN PLAYING UP SYMBOLIC
MALTESE CONNECTION. LIBYA OBVIOUSLY INVOLVED, GIVEN
MINTOFF'S COMMENTS TO PRESS ON ARRIVAL (ALGIERS 2123)
AND HIS STOPOVER IN TRIPOLI ON WAY HOME. DIFFICULT TO SAY
AT THIS JUNCTURE WHAT FORM FUTURE COOPERATION MAY TAKE. WE NOTE,
HOWEVER, THAT ALGERIANS PARSIMONIOUS IN GIVING OUT FOREIGN
ASSISTANCE AND DOUBT MALTESE WILL GET VERY MUCH FROM THIS
QUARTER IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. SAHARA LANGUAGE OF COMMUNIQUE NOTWITHSTANDING, WE
ASSUME MALTESE LESS WILLING TO PLAY ALGERIAN GAME ON THIS
QUESTION THAN ARE OTHER "PROGRESSIVE" STATES. PARKER

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